

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

1. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing the immunogenicity of a bacterial vaccine vector expressing a heterologous antigen, the method comprising the steps of: a) administering to an animal the bacterial vaccine vector; b) passing the bacterial vaccine vector through the animal; c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from the animal[.]; and[.:] d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) with the harvested bacterial vaccine vector until a maximum bacterial load for said vector in an organ is reached and virulence is stabilized, thereby enhancing the immunogenicity of the bacterial vaccine vector, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a Listeria vaccine vector wherein the bacterial vaccine vector expresses a heterologous antigen, and whereby the maximum bacterial load is reached and virulence is stabilized following the second passage of said bacterial vaccine vector.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.
6. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a Listeria vaccine vector.~~
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammal.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the mammal is a mouse.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to the animal via oral or parenteral administration.
10. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) A bacterial vaccine vector having enhanced immunogenicity, wherein the immunogenicity of the bacterial vaccine vector is enhanced by a) administering to an animal the bacterial vaccine vector; b) passing the

bacterial vaccine vector through the animal; c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from the animal, and; d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) until a maximum bacterial load in an organ is reached.

11. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.
12. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector expresses an antigen.
13. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 12, wherein the antigen is a heterologous antigen.
14. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 12, wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.
15. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a *Listeria* vaccine vector.
16. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the animal is a mammal.
17. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 16, wherein the mammal is a mouse.
18. (Withdrawn) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to the animal via oral or parenteral administration.
19. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The bacterial vaccine vector of claim 10, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
20. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing the immunogenicity of an antigen expressed from a bacterial vaccine vector, the method comprising the steps of: a) administering to an animal the bacterial vaccine vector; b) passaging the bacterial vaccine vector through the animal; c) harvesting the bacterial vaccine vector from the animal; and d) repeating step a), step b), and step c) with the harvested bacterial vaccine vector until a maximum bacterial load for said vector in an organ is reached and virulence is stabilized, thereby enhancing the immunogenicity of the antigen expressed from a bacterial vaccine vector, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a *Listeria* vaccine vector, ~~wherein the bacterial vaccine vector expresses a heterologous antigen;~~

~~and whereby the maximum bacterial load is reached and virulence is stabilized following the second passage of said bacterial vaccine vector.~~

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20₁ wherein the organ is a spleen or liver.
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20₁ wherein the antigen is a tumor antigen.
24. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 20, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is a Listeria vaccine vector.~~
25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the animal is a mammal.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the mammal is a mouse.
27. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is administered to the animal via oral or parenteral administration.
28. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising the bacterial vaccine vector having enhanced immunogenicity of claim 10, wherein the kit comprises an applicator and an instructional material for use thereof.
29. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The kit of claim 28₁ wherein the bacterial vaccine vector is lyophilized.
30. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The kit of claim 28₁ wherein the kit further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.